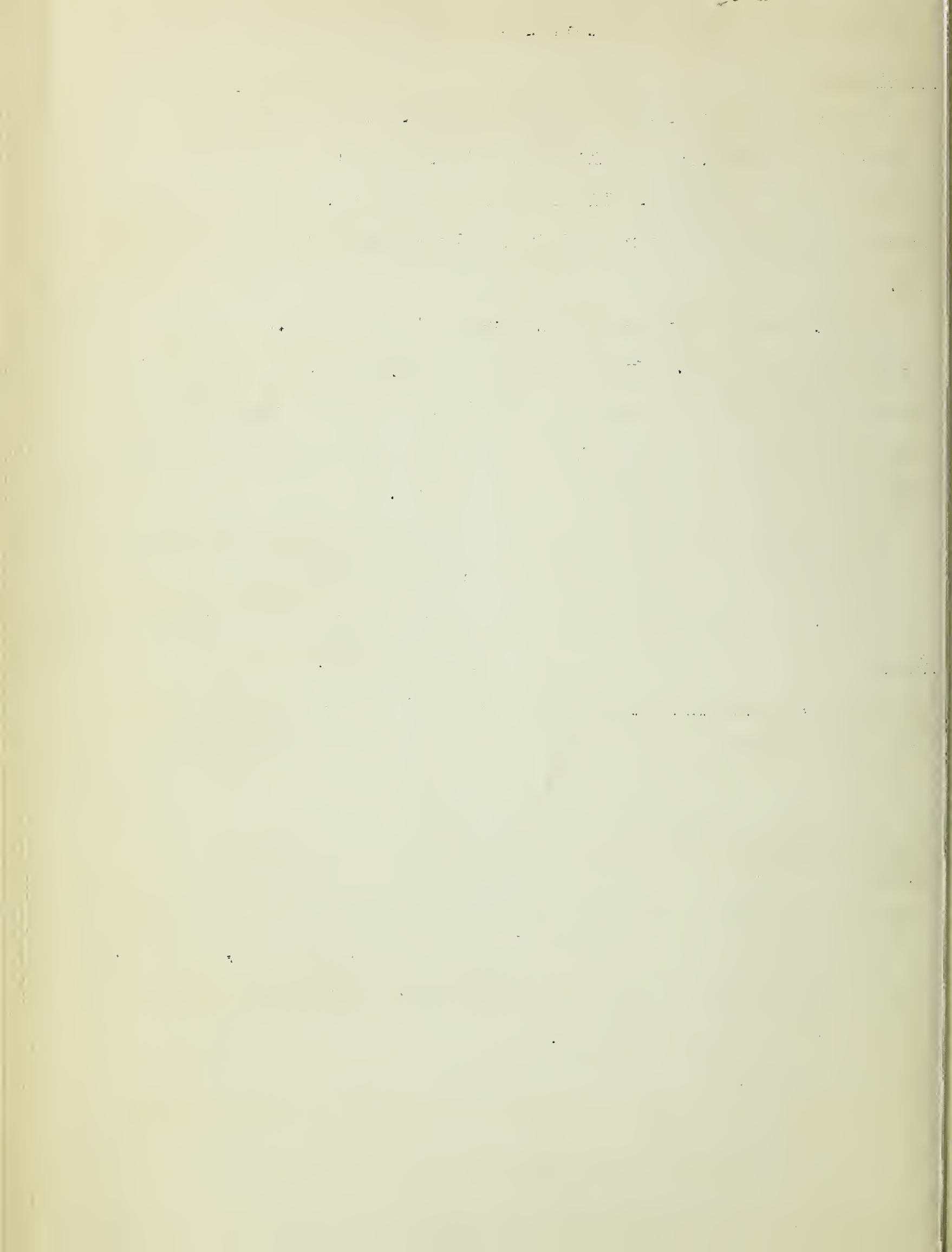


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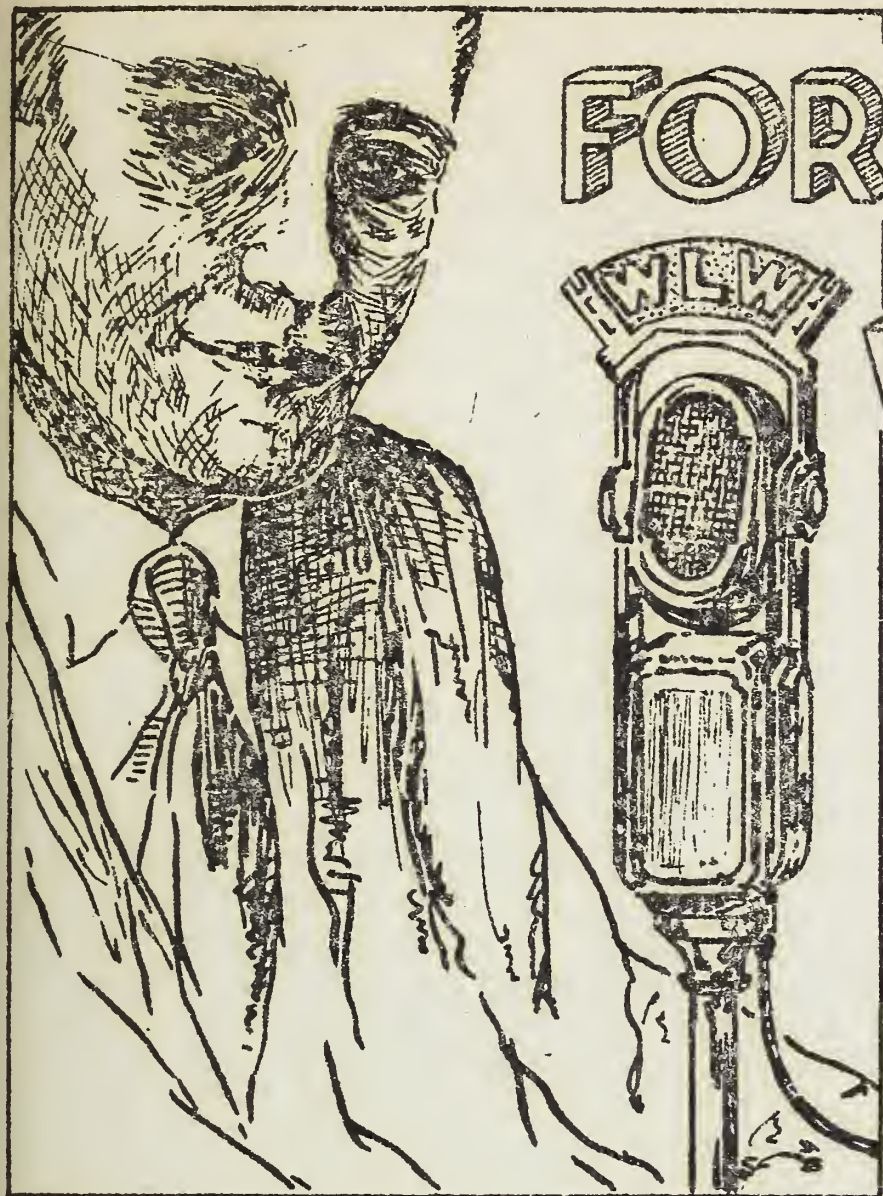
Rankin

FORTUNES

WASHED

AWAY

A Series of
Dramatizations
of Better
Land Use



No. 139 December 21, 1940 1:15 p.m.

"THE MAN WHO STUCK IT OUT"

W·L·W CINCINNATI

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Dayton · Ohio

Journal of Interpersonal Violence 26(10) 1978-1997
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[illegible][illegible]

1900

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

10

1990

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

[illegible]

1. 1990年12月25日，在“九七”香港回归前，香港各界人士纷纷发表文章，就香港前途问题提出自己的看法。

[illegible]

ORGAN: FANFARE

VOICE

Have you ever seen a black roller?

SOUND: Gentle wind, gradually mounting and mounting thru following...

VOICE

A black roller, scourge of the Dust Bowl, is both impressive and terrifying. First the dead calm, then the great perpendicular wall of black dust intershot with swirling gray, then the tremendous wind, picking up tons and tons and tons and tons of soil, sweeping along like a great tidal wave -- black blizzards!

SOUND: Clap of thunder...

ANNOUNCER

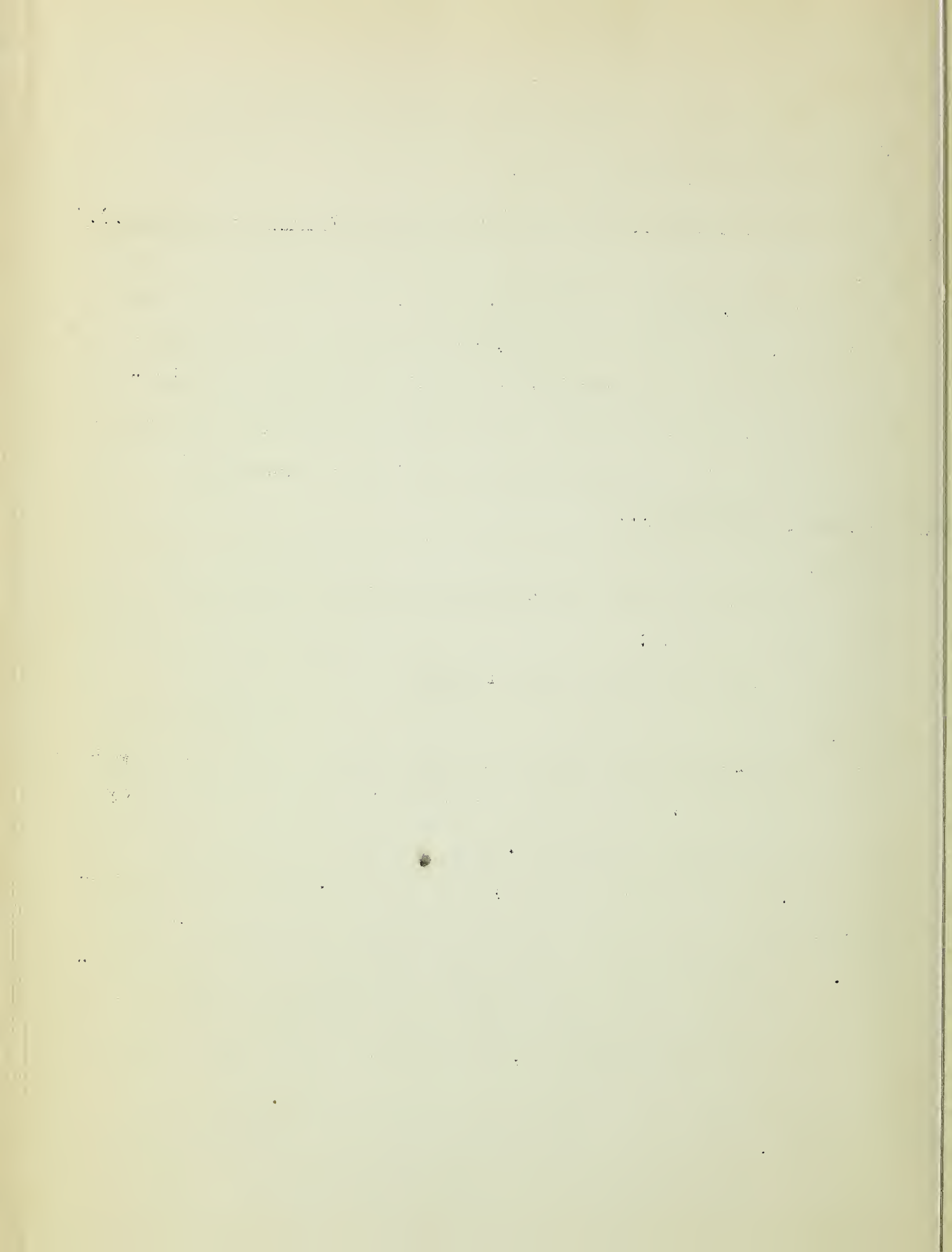
The Man Who Stuck it Out: the 139th consecutive episode of Fortunes Washed Away!

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

ANNOUNCER

Lovely, snow-capped Pike's Peak looks down over Colorado, monarch of all it surveys. Icy mountain streams leap with life as they course down its myriad canyons. This is Colorado -- land of pleasure, land of scenic gorges, land of gold. But in the southeastern corner of the state is a far different panorama -- Baca County. No massive folds of earth tilt skyward in Baca County -- for this is a land of rolling prairies and sandhills. This is land marked by pioneer trails, land of Buffalo Bill, land of the black roller.

ORGAN: DUST.



ANNOUNCER

In 1930, there were more than 17 hundred families in Baca County. Today, there are only 650. One of them is Walter H. Plagge, a man with courage and a man with ideas. Our scene is the front room in his modest farmhouse. The time, 1935.

SOUND: Wind blowing softly outside...

WIFE

Will this wind ever stop, Walter?

PLAGGE

Someday, I guess.

WIFE

I'll declare, the dust started blowing in the early spring, and it's hardly missed a day all summer.

PLAGGE

It's bad, all right. We won't make a bushel of wheat this year, but I still have faith in this country. Look at what's happened to us since we came here from Kansas. A bumper wheat crop in 1929, an even bigger one in 1930.

WIFE

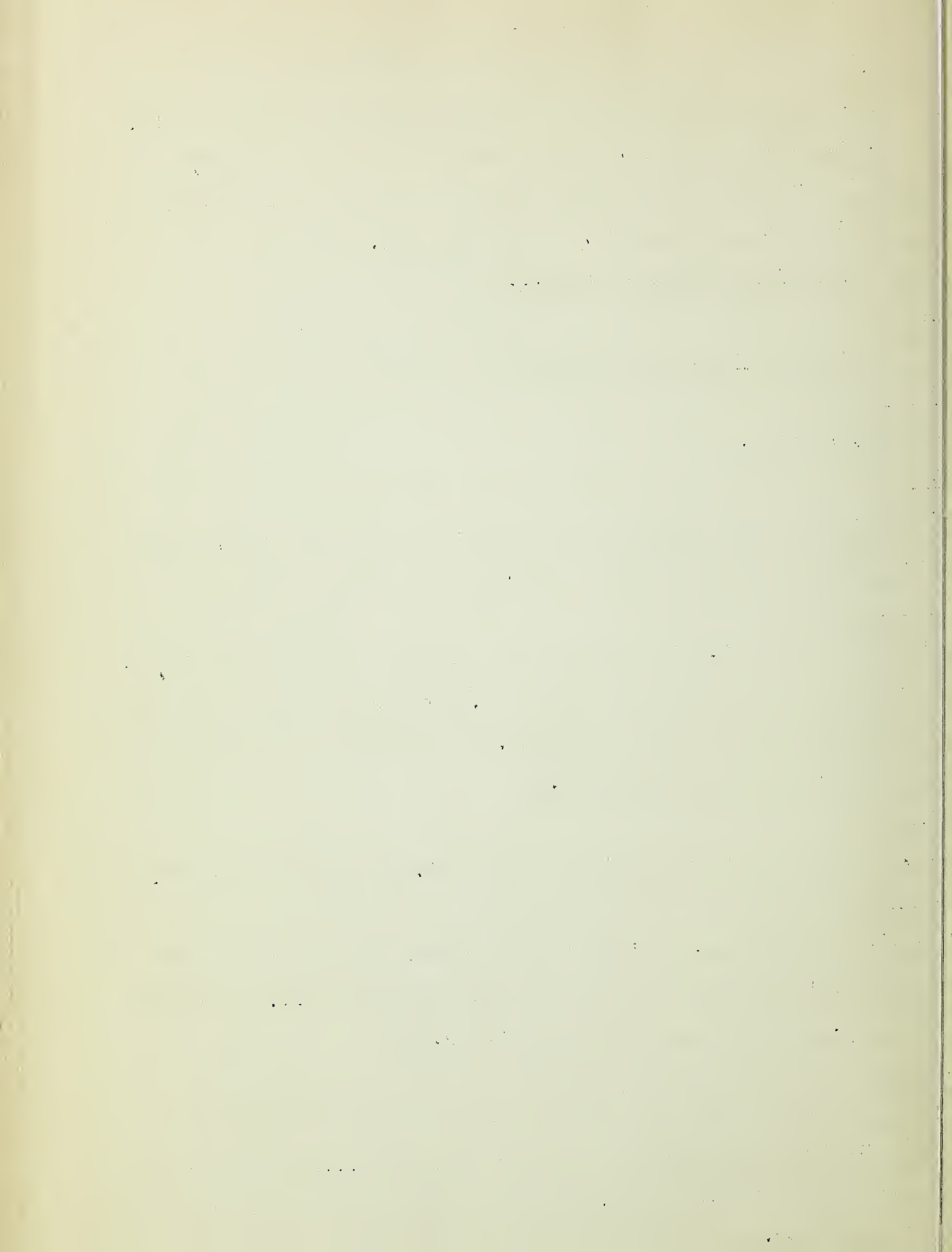
Sure, and the price dropped to 25¢ a bushel. And now the drouth.

PLAGGE

It can't last forever. We'll get rain one of these days, and when we do, I'm going to plant a feed crop of sorghum...get away from wheat. This just isn't wheat country.

WIFE

I used to think it was, but when you see family after family packing up their goods and leaving for California...leaving all their hopes and dreams behind, I sometimes wonder just what the land is good for.



PLAGGE

I still have faith in it.

SOUND: Wind begins to rise, dust blows against window panes...

WIFE

If you have faith, Walter, you know I have, too. We'll stick it out. The children feel the same way.

PLAGGE

Irene and Walter have been mighty helpful. Woo...that wind's getting stronger.

WIFE

And it's getting dark. Look, Walter! Out there!

PLAGGE

Yep, this is going to be a bad one. That cloud is several miles away, but it'll be on us in no time.

WIFE

It's terrible. Black as pitch! Here it comes!

SOUND: Wind increases, reaches high pitch, hold, then fade out.(PAUSE)

ORGAN: DUST, behind following...

NARRATOR

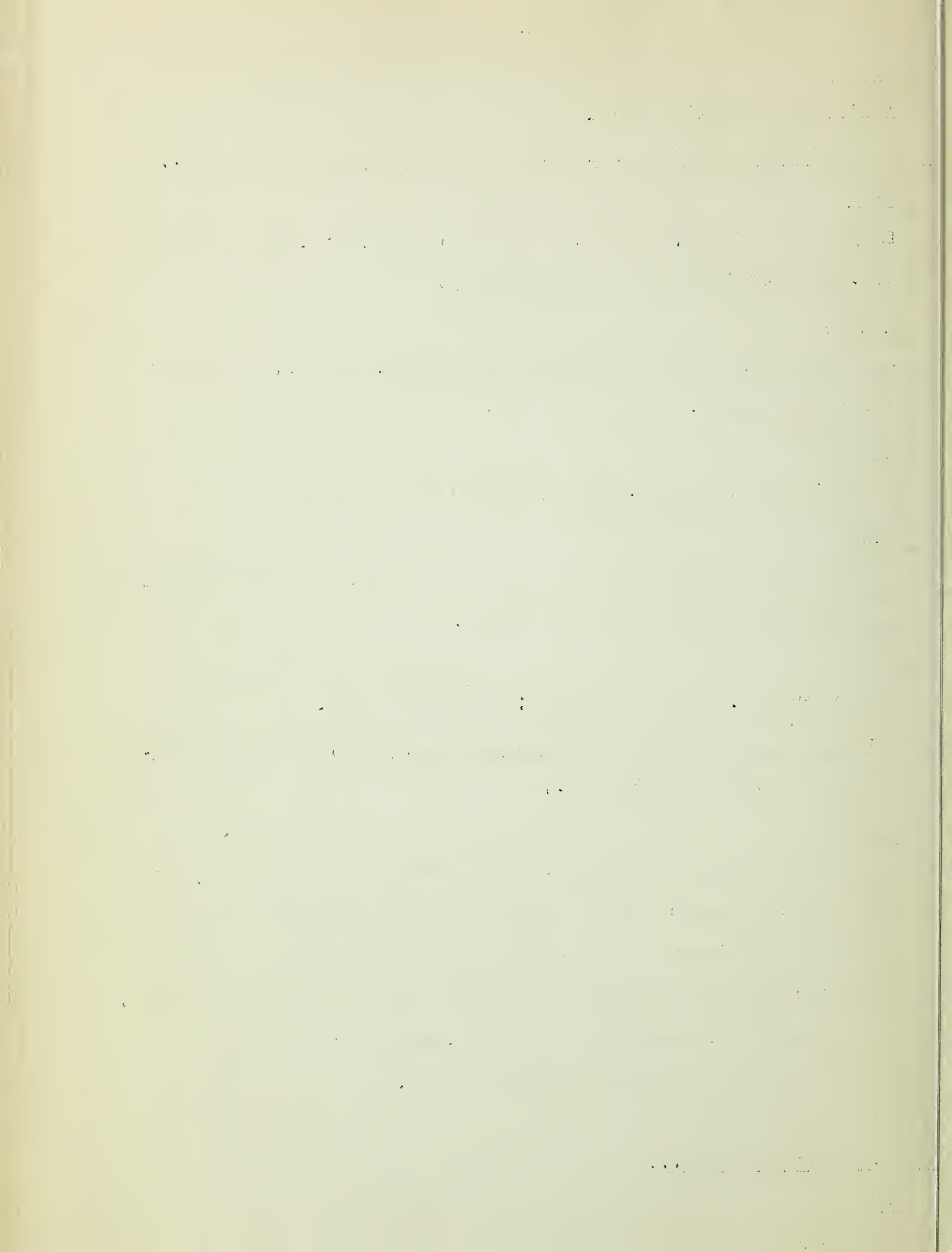
I have faith in this country. Many a drouth we have had, but there is no evidence that in historic times there was ever a severe enough drouth to destroy the grass roots and cause wind erosion comparable with that which took place in 1934 and 1936. That phenomenon, those black rollers, may be charged to the plowing and overcropping of recent years.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

SOUND: Knock on door...

WIFE

Now who can that be this early in the morning?



PLAGGE

Search me.

WIFE

I'll get it.

SOUND: Door opens...

NEIGHBOR

Good morning, Missus Plagge.

WIFE

Hello, Tom.

NEIGHBOR

Is Walter...oh, hello Walter.

PLAGGE

Howdy, Tom. Come on in.

NEIGHBOR

If you don't mind, Missus Plagge, I'd like to speak to Walter.

PLAGGE

Come on in! You big horned toad.

NEIGHBOR

You'd better come on out here, Walter

PLAGGE

Well, what in...

WIFE

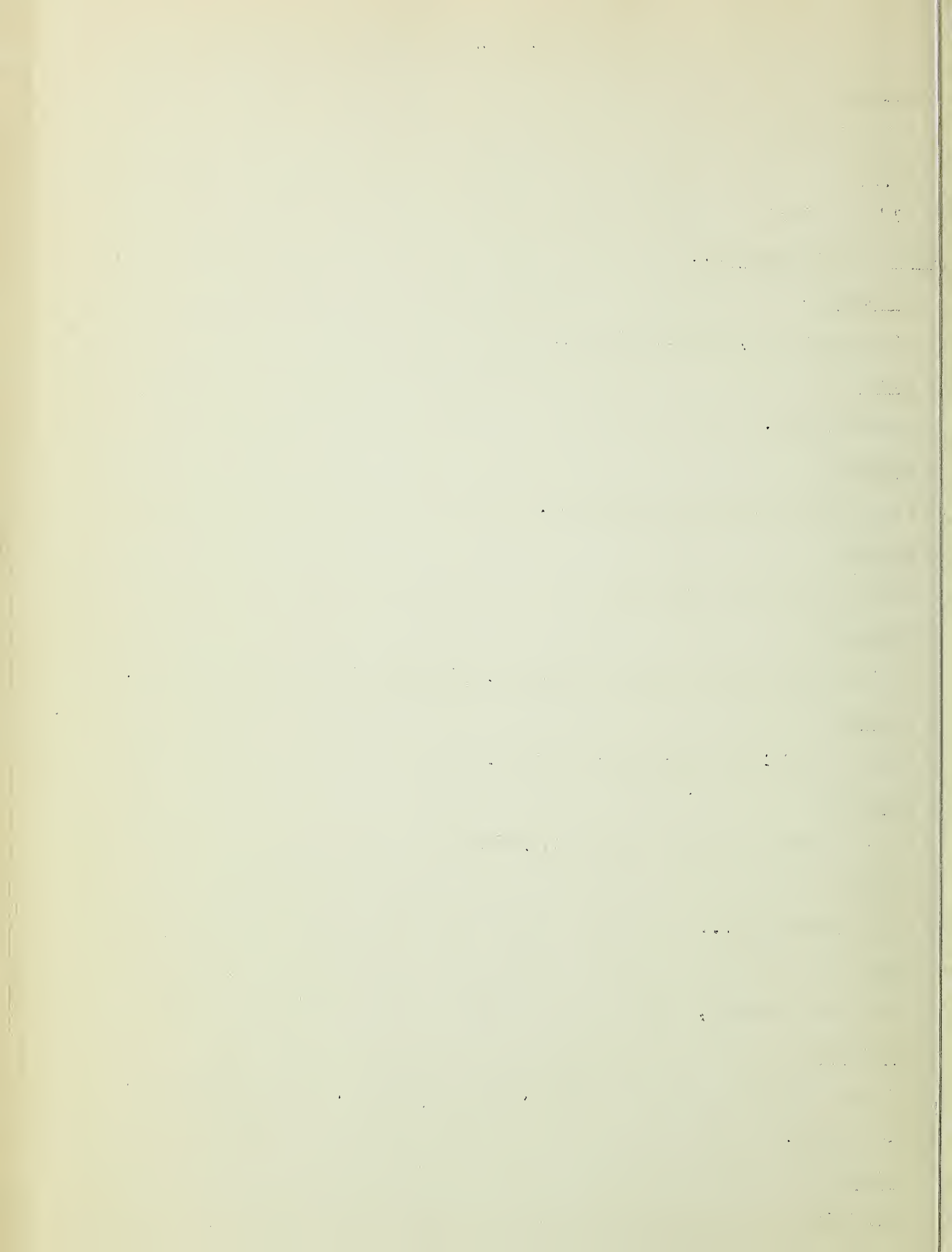
Nothing's wrong, Tom?

NEIGHBOR

I just want to talk to Walter, Missus Plagge. Got something to show him.

PLAGGE

What kind of business is this?



NEIGHBOR

Come on out here.

PLAGGE

I'll be back in a minute, _____.

SOUND: Door closes...

PLAGGE

What's up?

NEIGHBOR

Plenty. I got bad news.

PLAGGE

I've had plenty of trouble. Nothing you can say will hurt much.

NEIGHBOR

It's your cows. They busted over into my field last night.

PLAGGE

Why, those blamed....did they tear the fence up much?

NEIGHBOR

It's not that. They're dead.

PLAGGE

Dead?

NEIGHBOR

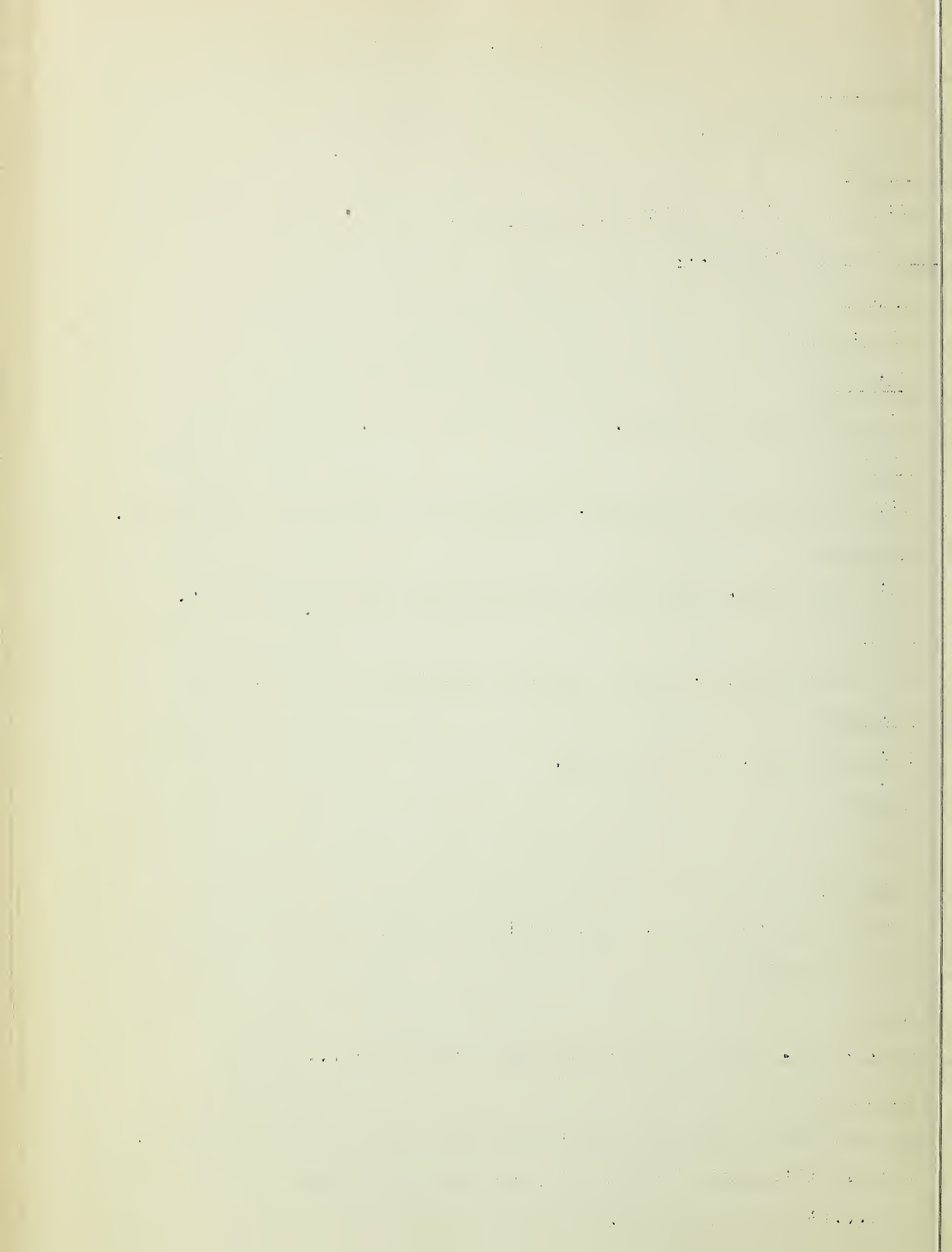
Cockle-burr poisoning. Near as I can tell, they must have gone mad from hunger...

PLAGGE

Oh,...dead. Yeah, there's no feed around here....

NEIGHBOR

So they broke over to where I had a few green shoots of cockle-burrs. It's just the time of year when the poison sets in, and well...I'm sorry, Walter.



PLAGGE

Gee...my cattle gone, my crops gone.

NEIGHBOR

And I'm going. Yep, I'm heading out of Baca County. I'm whipped.

PLAGGE

Don't say that, Tom!

NEIGHBOR

It's true. I've already got my things packed. My wife and kids are bawling, but they know as well as I do this country is shot to pieces.

PLAGGE

I'm sorry to hear you say that, Tom. I know I haven't got a ghost of a chance of ever getting rich, but I'm trying to start our children off right. That's our biggest job, and I don't want to fall down on it.

ORGAN: DUST, behind following...

NARRATOR

Nature has established a balance in the Great Plains by what in human terms would be called the method of trial and error. The white man has disturbed this balance. He must restore it or devise a new one of his own. Therein lies the future of the Great Plains.

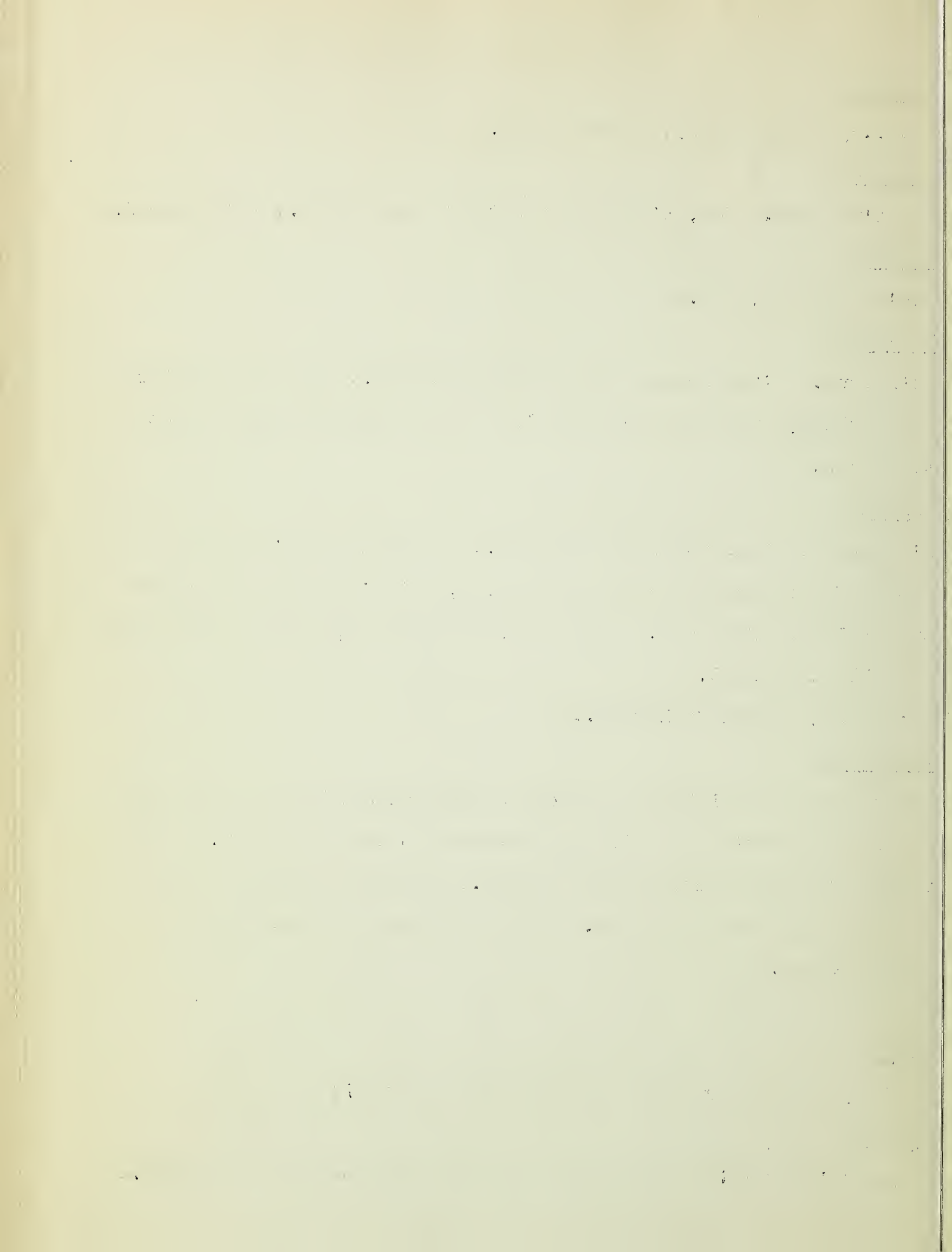
ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

WIFE

Walter, that government loan has been approved!

PLAGGE

Oh, that's swell! Now we can buy those white-faced beef cattle.



SINISTER VOICE (over filter mike)

Yes, but you need feed, and a feed-crop failure will make you sell your cattle!

PLAGGE

The pastures will take care of the cattle.

SINISTER VOICE

Yes, but did you ever hear of grasshoppers? I'm sorry, Walter Plagge, oh, so sorry, but the grasshoppers will swarm in and eat everything green on the place, even the pastures!

PLAGGE

But I'll keep trying...fighting, fighting...fighting. (PAUSE).

WIFE

Do you think we're whipped?

PLAGGE

I do not. The rains will come, and this time we'll be ready for them.

WIFE

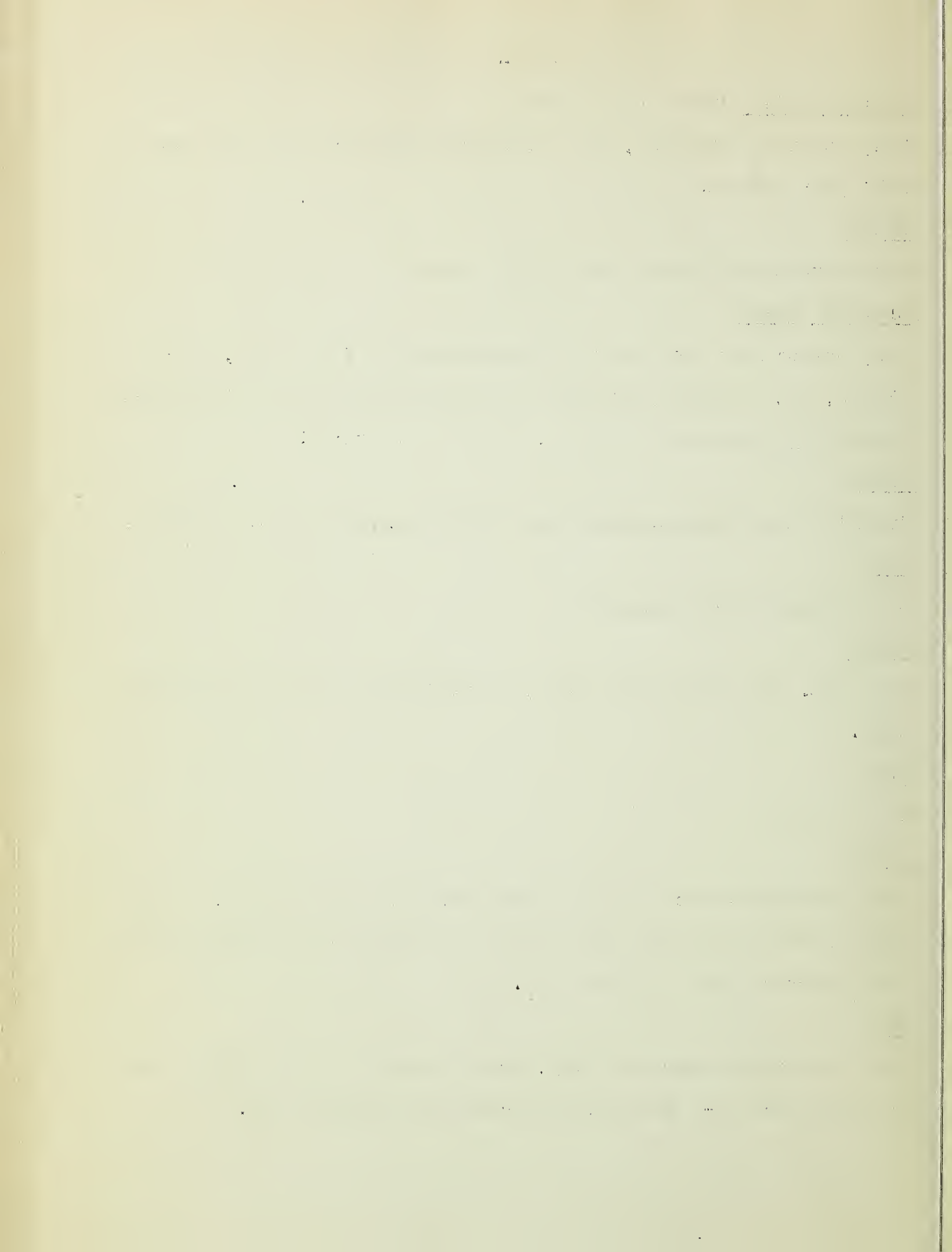
In what way?

PLAGGE

I was talking to some of the other farmers this morning. A CC camp is coming in here, and one of the first things they want to do is terrace some of this land.

WIFE

Like they did in Kansas? Why, those terraces were to take care of excess water -- something we certainly haven't got.



PLAGGE

These are different. Instead of getting the water off the land, they hold it on, because they're built without any grade...just on the contour. And I don't know why I didn't think about that before. When I was back in the old 89th Division in France and Germany, I saw contour farming like that..

WIFE

But back in Kansas we thought good farm land was level land.

PLAGGE

Sure, everybody farmed in squares. But this land can be just as good, if it's farmed right. Now, when I saw those German and French farmers running their rows around the slopes, I should have known that it would work in this country. The land is pretty flat here in Baca County, but we still lose a lot of water -- when we get water. Terracing and contour farming can be just as important to the Great Plains as they are to the steep hills across the pond. They'll hold the moisture, and we'll hold our land.

WIFE

I know we will, Walter, and it makes me proud to hear you say that. Any individual of any community should contribute something to the community -- that's part of our democracy. And our contribution will be sticking to our community, conserving its soil, and preserving it for not only Irene and Walter, but for those who are yet to come after us. We don't own this farm, Walter, but we'll preserve it. That's the way life should be.

ORGAN: Sneak in SINGING IN THE RAIN.

[illegible]

Condition	Control (%)	Mild (%)	Severe (%)
1	~85	~75	~65
2	~80	~70	~60
3	~85	~75	~65
4	~90	~85	~80

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

 f_1

NARRATOR

The land may bloom again if man once more makes his peace with nature. Careful planting will give him back the foothill trees; terracing will save lush foothill farms; a wise use of the land will restore grass for controlled grazing; fewer and larger farms on scientifically selected sites may yield under the plow a comfortable living; dams will hold back the waters from rains and melting snow, moisture held in the soil by scientific methods of tillage; by such means the life of man on the land may be made happier, more prosperous, more secure. The sun, the wind, the rain, the snow can be friends of man. This is no Utopian dream. It is a promise, to be realized if we will.

ORGAN: UP AND OUT.

ANNOUNCER

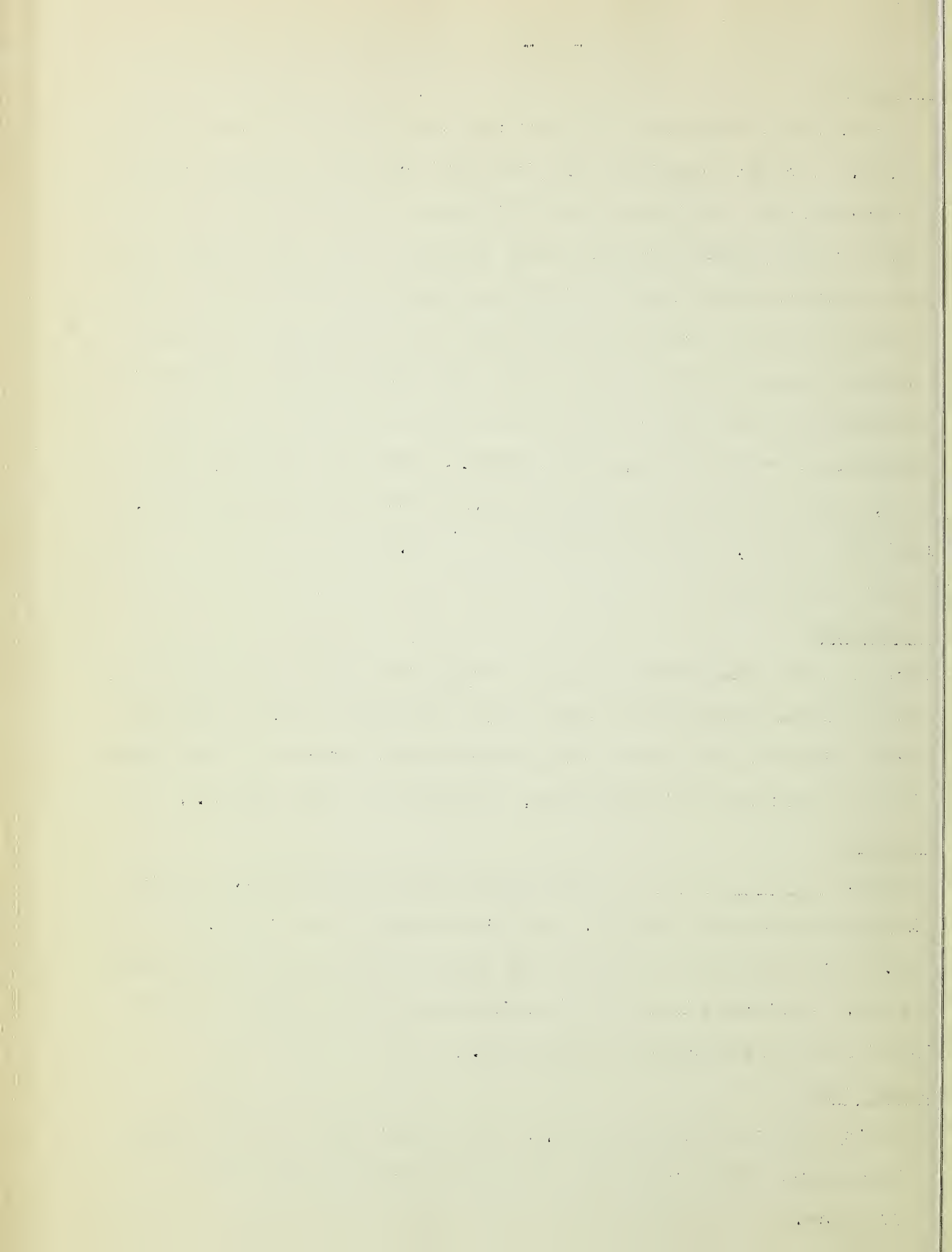
That is the true story of Walter Plagge of Baca County, Colorado, the man who stayed in the dust bowl, and made it pay. And now, once again we turn to the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, and here is Gene Charles.

CHARLES

Thanks, _____. Talk about Job having trouble, Walter Plagge had his own troubles, but he's winning his battles, one by one. He's one of the farmers who stuck it out when things looked so bad. In fact, all of the farm houses on the 15-mile road to his farm are deserted -- but not his.

ANNOUNCER

I don't want to seem arbitrary, Gene, but I can't believe that nothing more than terracing and contour farming made that difference.



CHARLES

Oh, no...no, his general plan is one of diversification and conservation. He raises feed for his livestock, and even if it doesn't make grain, it makes forage. Most of his land is in pasture.

ANNOUNCER

Pastures...those billions of grass roots to hold the soil that once was lost when "the plow broke the plains", so to speak.

CHARLES

Yes, and he's making good use of those pastures, with the help of the white-face cattle he bought with a government loan. Mr. and Mrs. Plagge keep records of their farm business, so they know where they're headed. Each year their invoice shows that their net worth is a little higher than it was the year before. He has had some help from the government, and he still owes some money borrowed in 1937 to get started with the beef cattle, but he has paid part of it back, and expects to clear the rest of it up within a few years. Let's see...I had some notes here....oh, here they are. He now milks 8 Holstein cows, and has about 40 head of beef cattle, and he sells a few steers each winter. He keeps two brood sows on the farm, and always has some fat hogs to sell and butcher for the family's meat supply. He raises chickens and turkeys. They bring in some money, but he depends primarily upon the sale of cream for a steady cash income. In all, he has a well-rounded farm program.

ANNOUNCER

I'll agree with you, Gene, and that shows what a good land owner can mean to a community.

CHARLES

He isn't even a landowner, _____, as yet, although he hopes to be some day. But he certainly has his roots in the community. He is president of the local chapter of the Grange, a member of the County Land Use Planning Committee, and chairman of the Farm Program Building Committee. And Norman Fuller, in charge of the Soil Conservation Service staff there, will tell you that Mr. Plagge takes an active part in the affairs of the Western Baca County Soil Conservation District. He's a member of the American Legion. And he and Mrs. Plagge are leaders of the Pritchett 4-H clubs, among the outstanding clubs of the state.

ANNOUNCER

And through men such as Walter Plagge, the dust bowl is coming back.

CHARLES

Yes, it's coming back. The intense, heart-breaking dust storms are less severe. Revegetation is progressing, and grass once more is getting a hold on the loose soil. Farmers have more money, and more hope, and more knowledge that they can't survive by wheat alone. Oh, it will take years for complete recovery. Nature needed centuries to clothe the soil. In a few crop years man destroyed that cover by plowing. And they say that "as man strides over the land, deserts follow in his footsteps." But men like Walter Plagge will bring back the Great Plains.

ORGAN THEME: I GET THE BLUES WHEN IT RAINS.

CHARLES (on cue)

This is Gene Charles, speaking for the Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.....and goodbye, friends, until next Saturday, same time over WTW, when once again we bring you a story of "Fortunes Washed Away."

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